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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Applicant(s): | David L. Detlefs et al. | | |
| Title: | LOCK FREE REFERENCE COUNTING | | |
| Application No.: | 09/837,671 | Filed: | April 18, 2001 |
| Examiner: | Alvin E. Oberley | Group Art Unit: | 2151 |
| Atty. Docket No.: | 004-5723 | | |



April 10, 2002

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, DC 20231

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the first action on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

*In the Specification*

Please replace paragraph 1002 on page 1 with the following:

A1

[1002] In addition, this application is related to U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2001/0056420 A1 and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2001/0047361 A1.

Please replace paragraph 1042 beginning on page 18 with the following:

A2

[1042] In this section, we show how to use our methodology to construct a GC-independent implementation of a concurrent double-ended queue (deque) object, based on a GC-dependent implementation presented in greater detail in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2001/0056420 A1, entitled "LOCK-FREE IMPLEMENTATION OF CONCURRENT SHARED OBJECT WITH DYNAMIC NODE ALLOCATION AND DISTINGUISHING POINTER VALUE," naming Guy L. Steele Jr., Alexander T. Garthwaite, Paul A. Martin, Nir N. Shavit, Mark S. Moir and David L. Detlefs as inventors, and filed on even date herewith. The description, in the above-identified U.S. Patent Application Publication, of a deque object implementation (including supporting data structure representations and access operations)